



# State of Louisiana

## Department of Environmental Quality



December 19, 2002

M.J. "Mike" Foster  
Governor

Contact Analisa Mir for more information: (225) 765-0731; e-mail: [analysam@deq.state.la.us](mailto:analysam@deq.state.la.us)

L. Hall Bohlinger  
Secretary

### **WOODSIDE LANDFILL PERMIT MODIFICATION ISSUED**

#### **Height to Increase by 95 Feet**

(Baton Rouge) – Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) officials today announced the approval of a permit modification for Woodside Landfill and Recycling Center located in Livingston Parish. The decision, which authorizes the vertical expansion of the landfill by 95 feet, was made four months after a court ordered DEQ to take additional evidence and issue new findings pertaining to emergency response capabilities.

On October 2000, Waste Management of Louisiana, LLC filed a permit modification request with DEQ for the vertical expansion of the facility. The modification request was granted by DEQ on December 28, 2001. That decision was subsequently appealed, and on August 19, 2002, the court vacated the permit stating that the record did not provide sufficient evidence to support Waste Management's ability to deal with emergency issues. In addition, the court felt that comments submitted by citizens regarding alleged ethical violations by DEQ officials required that a more comprehensive response be introduced in the record. In judging the merits of scientific and technological issues and on questions raised concerning the interpretation of the capacity statute, the court did not find "any basis for reversal or remand" of the challenged permit.

"In making this decision, we have carefully weighed public comments received on the emergency response issue, the court order and the regulations that govern DEQ," stated Linda Levy, DEQ Assistant Secretary for the Office of Environmental Services, adding that "the documentation submitted by the applicant has been open for public review and meets the requirements relating to matters of emergency response as set forth in LA R.S. 30:2157." Levy also said that approximately 350 letters in support of the modification were submitted, and approximately 20 letters voicing opposition to the vertical expansion were also received. "It is important to note that the scientific and technological merits of the original decision to approve the modification were reviewed and found to be sufficient by the court," expressed Levy.

DEQ solicited additional public comments from September 29 through November 1, 2002. Based on the information received and a review of the previous permit decision, DEQ issued its decision today. DEQ addressed the issues specifically identified by the judge in his August remand order.